



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$37,000 TO THE GROVESPRING VOLUNTARY FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development presented a mock check in the amount of \$37,000 to Grovespring Voluntary Fire Protection Association, Inc. on Thursday, November 12. The Community Facilities program combined a loan in the amount of \$15,000 and a grant in the amount of \$22,000 to finance the purchase and renovation of a tanker fire truck for the local volunteer fire department. This will provide additional equipment for the fire fighters to ensure the safety of all northern Wright County households.

“The improvements and equipment purchases made possible by these funds will do much to ensure the continued safety of those living in the areas served by the Grovespring Voluntary Fire Protection Association,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “I congratulate those leaders who worked to secure these funds and thank the fire association’s volunteers who serve selflessly the people of northern Wright County.”

“Volunteer fire departments are an important and too-often unappreciated part of Missouri communities,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. “I am thankful that the firefighters in Grovespring will be able to afford the equipment needed to help them protect their community.”

“In every way we can, we need to support the first responders in rural communities. New equipment is expensive and it can be tough to find room in the budget for it. That’s



Left to Right: Darren Lingle, Field Representative for U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson; Hollie Elliott, Field Representative for U.S. Senator Kit Bond; Brandon Acton, Battalion Chief Grovespring Fire Dept; Mark Dethrow, Area Specialist, USDA Rural Development; Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director; David Rauch, District Director for U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill; Bill Harrison, Secretary Treasurer Grovespring Fire Dept; Mark Hultgren, Area 5 Director, USDA Rural Development

where the combination of a grant and a loan for Grovespring makes it much easier to afford the firefighting equipment the community needs. I am grateful for USDA Rural Development's support of this project, which I know countless people in Grovespring have worked to make a reality," said U.S. Representative Joan Ann Emerson.

Battalion Chief Brandon Acton stated, "Thanks to funding from Rural Development, this tanker fire truck will certainly aid the local fire fighters' efforts when providing service to the 863 households in our rural servicing area."

Dunning said, "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Obama's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for rural Missouri."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Mark Dethrow, Area Specialist, at 6726 S. Hwy 63, Suite B, Houston, MO 65483 or by calling (417) 967-2028 extension 3 or by email to mark.dethrow@mo.usda.gov.

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